

REMARKS

Claims 1-29 will be pending upon entry of the present amendment. Claims 1 and 4 are being amended. Claims 25-29 are new. Claims 16-23 were allowed. No new matter is being entered.

The applicants appreciate the indication that claims 1-15 and 24 are directed to allowable subject matter.

The specification was objected to because a brief description of Figure 17 was lacking. Page 5 of the application is being amended to include a brief description of Figure 17.

Claims 1-15 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite.¹

Claim 1 is being amended to address each of the items mentioned by the Examiner with respect to claim 1. In addition, claim 1 is being amended to recite "A data conversion process that includes a procedure for converting signals in the form of digital data between an original format ... and a compressed format. As a result, claims 4 and 14 are properly directed to a decompressing procedure of the conversion process of claim 1. Accordingly, claims 1-14 are in condition for allowance.

The applicants submit that claim 24 is not indefinite. The applicants disagree with the Examiner's assertion that the compressed format does not include first and second section codes. In the examples shown in Figure 18 of the application, the compressed input data includes a first data item having a first section code A₁-A₄, a second section code B₁-B₄, and a third section code C*, and the input data further includes a second data item having a first section code A₁, a second section code B₁-B₄, and a third section code C*. As shown in Figures 18-20 and the corresponding text of the specification, those section codes are converted into respective output sections in a manner corresponding to the converting steps recited in claim 24 and the output sections are arranged in a manner corresponding to the arranging step recited in claim 24. Accordingly, claim 24 particularly points out and distinctly claims the invention.

¹ Although the Examiner indicated on page 2 that claims 19-23 were rejected under Section 112, the Examiner indicated on page 2 and on the Office Action Summary that claims 19-23 were allowed and did not discuss and problems with claims 19-23. As a result, the applicants assume that the indication of claims 19-23 as part of the Section 112 rejection was an inadvertent error.

New claims 25-27 depend on claim 24, and thus, are also directed to allowable subject matter.

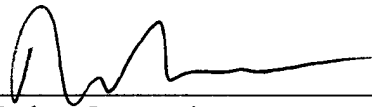
New claims 28-29 depend on claim 18, and thus, are also directed to allowable subject matter.

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

All of the claims remaining in the application are now clearly allowable. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

SEED Intellectual Property Law Group PLLC



Robert Iannucci
Registration No. 33,514

Enclosure:
Postcard

701 Fifth Avenue, Suite 6300
Seattle, Washington 98104-7092
Phone: (206) 622-4900
Fax: (206) 682-6031

569613_1.DOC